



# DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS

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Dear (Business Manager)

Chapter #89 of The Disabled American Veterans is dedicated to aiding those men and women who have become disabled as a result of serving their country in uniform. We are appealing to you as a good (Waynesville/Clyde/Canton) citizen to assist us in maintaining and expanding our services to your neighbors in (Waynesville/Canton/etc) As a leader, and an example for the rest of the community, you can help us to help them in two very important ways.

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Firstly, you can remind your customers that the DAV is there for veterans and their families who may be experiencing emotional stress and financial hard times aggravated by the depressed economy. No man likes to think that he is unable to provide for himself or his family, and many veterans are having trouble coping with Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) at the same time they deal with work and/or marriage problems and insufficient compensation from the US Government. If you know of any of your customers' concerns or need for these service, please pass along this information; if they are embarrassed or depressed about asking for help, please contact me at 828-648-6210, and we will contact them without implicating or identify you.

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Counseling for veterans and their families. (1) Advice on programs, compensation, and other benefits of the Veterans Administration. (2) Assistance to individual veterans with the myriad of regulations, applications, reviews, and appeals involved in obtaining their benefits. (3) Assisting the veteran or his family with the DOD and individual Services in obtaining information or correcting military records which could influence the individual's benefits. (4) Advising the disabled veteran or his family of Social Security disability programs or entitlements which could help them, even though they have not reached "retirement age". (5) Encouraging and referring veterans and their families who may be suffering from psychological, stress-related, and emotional problems to available grant-related services such as the Service Members Counseling and Support Center. We hold informal meetings at 6 PM on the third Thursday of every month at the Clyde fire station. No records are kept, no names recorded, no judgments are made, and no subject is off-limits. Coffee, soft drinks, and light refreshments are served and all veterans are welcome. The counseling, and the experiences of other veterans who may have experienced similar dilemmas are free.

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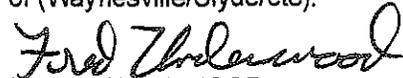
Emergency financial aide. Occasionally disabled veterans, and their families, find themselves faced with pressing situations which are beyond the scope of the Veterans Administration or local/county/ state Social Services agencies. Recent examples include (1) purchase of groceries and shopping assistance for a veteran who was unable to drive, and had no money (2) dental assistance for the non-US wife of a disabled veteran (not yet eligible for VA or civilian dental assistance), but in severe pain and needing immediate dental relief (3) payment of heating or electric bills for several veterans who -- because of an unusually hard winter -- were out of money, and needed immediate action to avoid being frozen from their homes (4) emergency repairs to the automobile of a veteran who needed his car to get to work, but had no money. Our

chapter has a Hardship Committee which can react much quicker than most local, county, state, or federal agencies and provide immediate relief up to \$250; larger amounts can be approved by a chapter vote, based upon the Hardship Committee's recommendations.

Christmas visits. Each year our chapter visit's all nursing homes and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) in Haywood, Swain and Jackson counties. Chapter members deliver to all veterans in each facility, a package of convenience items (shaving cream, dental hygiene items, soap, and safety razors where allowed) and a small cash gift of \$30 (most homes and SNF's place a limit on the amount of cash their residents may have). Many of these are WW 2 veterans who appreciate a short visit and reminiscences with the younger veterans. One of these veterans, who gave so much and had so little, wanted to -- and did -- donate \$10 to the DAV

Our second request involves asking you to join with your individual customers and some municipalities through a tax-deductible donation. Your donations make possible our efforts to provide the quick-response efforts listed above. They also demonstrate your support for veterans, and your leadership role in your community. We are acutely aware that times are difficult for our Haywood, Swain, and Jackson county businesses -- just as they are for your customers and local municipal governments -- so we are even more grateful for any donation you may see fit to make.

Would you please contact me at 828-648-6210 regarding your feelings about this letter. Thank you in advance for your support in referring needy veterans to us. We look forward to our mutual efforts to serve the community of (Waynesville/Clyde/etc).

  
FRED UNDERWOOD  
Commander, DAV Chapter #89